

## **Appendix 1**

### **Acknowledgments**

Many thanks to the parents, individuals with ASD, health providers, therapists and other professionals who contributed their time and energy to this project, both through formal presentations and informal input provided at public meetings and forums and by email. Their help was essential in assessing current gaps in services and identifying priorities for future actions that will improve the system of care for individuals with ASD. The panelists and experts who spoke before the task force November 2005-April 2006 shared their knowledge and described experience living with ASD and/or working with individuals who experience ASD. The task force convened nine expert panel presentations in all, including parents, individuals with ASD, educators, therapists, doctors, research scientists, an epidemiologist, a sleep expert, state agencies and programs that serve individuals with ASD, and community organizations. These panelists identified both what is working well and where gaps remain. For their input, we are extremely grateful. Combined with the literature gathered, and the expertise and insight of the task force itself, we believe these recommendations are based on priority areas where change is most critically needed.